



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 3, 1999

H.R. 905

Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on April 28, 1999*

SUMMARY

H.R. 905 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2003 for the Missing Children program administered by the Department of Justice and for the Runaway and Homeless Youth program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 905 would result in additional discretionary spending of about \$254 million over the 2000-2004 period (if the programs are funded at the 1999 level for all years) or \$268 million (if they are funded with adjustments for inflation after 1999).

This legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 905 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. Any requirements imposed on state and local governments would be a condition of aid.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that appropriations would be provided by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow the historical spending rates for the authorized activities. Because H.R. 905 would authorize such sums as necessary for the affected programs, CBO estimated spending under two different sets of assumptions, representing continued funding at current levels of appropriations with and without adjustment for anticipated inflation. (The 1999 appropriations for these programs total \$76.2 million—\$59.0 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth program and \$17.2 million for the Missing Children program.) Current law authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the Missing Children program through fiscal year 2001. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 750 (administration of justice) and 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Without adjustment for inflation						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	76	17	17	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	70	59	24	14	7	1
Proposed Changes						
Missing Children						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	17	17	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	4	10	13
Runaway and Homeless Youth						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	59	59	59	59	0
Estimated Outlays	0	15	52	58	59	44
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	59	59	76	76	0
Estimated Outlays	0	15	52	62	69	57
Spending Under H.R. 905						
Estimated Authorization Level	76	76	76	76	76	0
Estimated Outlays	70	74	76	76	76	58
With adjustment for inflation						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level	76	18	18	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	70	59	24	15	7	1
Proposed Changes						
Missing Children						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	18	19	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	4	11	14
Runaway and Homeless Youth						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	60	61	63	64	0
Estimated Outlays	0	15	53	60	63	47
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	60	61	81	83	0
Estimated Outlays	0	15	53	64	74	61
Spending Under H.R. 905						
Estimated Authorization Level	76	78	79	81	83	0
Estimated Outlays	70	74	77	79	81	62

a. The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Missing Children program (\$17 million) and for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (\$59 million). Current law authorizes such sums as may be necessary for the Missing Children program through 2001.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 905 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Funds authorized in this bill for grants and technical assistance would benefit state and local programs targeted at missing, exploited, and runaway children. Any requirements imposed on state and local governments would be conditions for receiving such aid.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 18, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 249, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act, as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 4, 1999. The estimated authorization levels for 2000 through 2003 are the same for the two bills. However, S. 249 would authorize funding for one additional year—through 2004. Thus, the estimates differ only with respect to 2004.

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